

Nearly 50% of cumulative HIV-only cases fell in the 25-34 year age-group. Shelby County had the largest proportion of HIV-only cases -- 38%, followed closely by Davidson County -- 32%. Sullivan County and Southeast Tennessee had the lowest proportion of regional cases. It appears that residual reported HIV-only cases increased over the period 1992-1995. However, this may merely be an artifact of increased reporting, increased testing and the fact that cases are moved from the HARS HIV category to the HARS AIDS category when full-blown AIDS is diagnosed.

Nearly 60% of the 42 pediatric HIV-only cases were female; 76% were black. The vast majority -- 93% -- were exposed through perinatal transmission (i.e. transmission from an HIV-infected mother to her infant at birth). More than three-quarters of these pediatric HIV-only cases were under 5 years old.

Forty-two percent of HIV-only cases in Tennessee among adult/adolescent males were white and 57% were black. Twenty-six percent of HIV-only cases among adult/adolescent females were white; 73% were black.

Among cumulative HIV-only cases, MSM was more frequently identified as the exposure risk for white males (69%) than black males (43%) or males of other races (36%). Injecting drug use was a more common exposure among white females with HIV-only (30%) as compared to corresponding black females (23%). On the other hand, black males were more likely to be exposed to HIV through IDU (21%) than were white males (11%). Heterosexual sex exposure affected similar proportions of HIV-only cases among white and black females (48% and 43% respectively). However, only 9% of black males and 3% of white males were exposed to HIV through heterosexual sex. Finally, high percentages of risk not yet identified were observed. One-third of cases among black females, 21-22% among black males and white males, but only 10% of white males, had unidentified exposure risk.

MSM was the largest HIV exposure category for males as it was for AIDS. For females, heterosexual sex with an infected partner was highest. For both black and white males, IDU was the second highest exposure category as it was for AIDS cases. IDU was proportionately more important for black than for white males, and MSM was more important for white than black males.

For both sexes and races, the age-group, 30-39, was the peak age-group for HIV-only cases among males exposed to HIV through MSM. About half of cases among black and white males were concentrated in the 25-34 year age-group. Among IDUs, the majority of HIV-only cases were male, black and aged between 25 and 29 years. It should be noted that these ages are based on age at first test not age at infection.

The joint exposure, MSM and IDU, was more frequent among older black males than white males.